

**CLASS SPECIFICATION**  
**County of Fairfax, Virginia**

**CLASS:** 4236

**TITLE:** FIREFIGHTER

**GRADE:** F-18

**DEFINITION:**

Under direct supervision, responds to fire alarms and other emergency calls to protect life and property; combats, extinguishes and prevents fires; drives emergency apparatus, including a life support unit; participates in rescue extrication operations and provides emergency medical care to the sick or injured; stocks and distributes firefighting and emergency medical supplies and equipment; participates in recruitment activities; and performs related work as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:**

This is the entry and full-performance level for uniformed fire and rescue personnel. After completion of formal recruit training programs, employees in this class typically are assigned to either the fire suppression or emergency medical service function, but are required to attain basic proficiency in both areas and perform in either area as needed to meet workload demands and emergency situations. The Firefighter class differs from the next level in the series, Fire Technician, in that Fire Technicians are assigned to a specialty, whereas Firefighters are generalists.

Regardless of area of assignment, all uniformed fire and rescue personnel that are medically qualified for field duties as a firefighter must maintain a level of fitness sufficient to enable them to participate in fire suppression and rescue activities when the need arises, as demonstrated by successful completion of a work performance test (unless granted light duty due to illness or injury).

**ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:**

**Fire Suppression**

Responds to fire alarms and a variety of emergency calls;  
Connects hose to hydrant, and pulls and deploys pre-connected hose lines;  
Wearing self-contained breathing apparatus and protective clothing, enters burning buildings with hose lines;  
Operates a nozzle and places a stream of water on a fire;  
Mounts and operates master stream appliances from an aerial ladder or elevating platform;  
Ventilates burning buildings by opening windows/skylights or by opening holes in roofs/floors;  
Positions ventilation fans to safely inject fresh air and exhaust heat, smoke, and gases;  
Performs salvage operations (e.g., removes fire debris and water, locates hidden fires, and operates shut-off valves for gas, electricity, oil and water);  
Operates chemical and hand extinguishers;  
Raises, lowers and climbs ladders;  
Uses radio and computer-aided dispatch equipment;  
Drives motorized apparatus in emergency and non-emergency conditions;  
Operates fire pumps at proper pressures and flows;

Searches for victims in burning, smoke-filled buildings or other hazardous environments;  
Removes persons from danger;  
Performs heavy rescue operations;  
Administers first aid to injured persons;  
Takes vital signs and stabilizes patient;  
Collects pertinent information for patient assessment, including the patient's medical history;  
Conducts assessment for treatment of a patient with trauma-induced injuries;  
Performs water rescues from land and boats;  
Assists in the search and recovery of drowned victims;  
Operates emergency lighting appliances;  
Operates self-contained breathing apparatus in hazardous environments and confined spaces;  
Identifies and protects flammable or hazardous materials at fire scene;  
Removes energized electrical wire, using appropriate rescue equipment and protective clothing;  
Restores apparatus and equipment to service after use;  
Refills self-contained breathing cylinders;  
Maintains specialized fire equipment and protective gear;  
Studies area geography, street names and locations, target hazards, pre-plans, water supply, and other firefighting resources;  
Studies building construction to identify structural weaknesses and fire behavior;  
Instructs citizens in fire prevention and life safety techniques;  
Examines building plans for pre-fire planning purposes;  
Pre-plans for fires in residential areas to provide information regarding hydrant locations, exposures, types of occupancy, and areas of high life or monetary loss risk;  
Pre-plans for fires in industrial and commercial buildings to provide information regarding location of hydrants and standpipes, building layout, hazardous material storage, occupancy patterns, and structural information;  
Participates in the inspection of businesses and public places for fire and life safety hazards;  
Inspects wiring and heating systems, basements, and attics of residences, and recommends ways to eliminate fire hazards;  
Inspects storage of hazardous and flammable materials and refers unsafe practices to the Fire Prevention Division;  
Inspects heating, cooling, ventilating, and electrical systems in commercial buildings and refers unsafe practices to the Fire Prevention Division;  
Inspects exits at public assemblies to ensure they are clearly marked, operate properly, and are clear of obstructions;  
Prepares inspection reports;  
Recognizes and preserves evidence on the causes of fires;  
Performs public relations duties (e.g., teaching school children about fire safety).

**Emergency Medical Services**

Drives a Basic Life Support Unit or Advanced Life Support Unit in response to emergency calls, transporting victims to a medical facility;

Conducts primary and secondary patient survey;

Provides and assists in rendering emergency care, such as opening and maintaining a victim's airway, giving positive pressure ventilation and cardiac resuscitation in a pulseless, non-breathing patient, controlling hemorrhages, treating for shock, immobilizing fractures, bandaging wounds, assisting in childbirth, and initiating poison and burn treatments;

Performs triage assessment in a multi-casualty incident;

Inspects scene of poisoning or drug overdose to determine nature of poison, and identifies antidote or treatment procedure;

Treats a range of injuries requiring emergency care techniques within the scope of an EMT-A/ EMT-B;

Assists in the extrication of entrapped victims, using prescribed techniques and appliances for removing the patient safely;

Assures prompt medical care on delivery by reporting via radio, directly to the emergency department or control center, the nature and extent of injuries or the medical situation, as well as the estimated time of arrival;

Performs routine preventive maintenance on the rescue vehicle;

Stocks and maintains supplies and medical equipment in the vehicle.

**Supply and Equipment Branch**

Drives the Fire and Rescue Department's delivery truck;

Transports fire and rescue supplies and equipment to the scene of emergencies to meet special needs (hazardous materials, technical rescues, multi-casualty incidents);

Transports mail, oxygen cylinders, fire extinguishers, repaired equipment, and other supplies and equipment between Fire and Rescue offices and stations;

Coordinates pick-ups and deliveries between the Fire and Rescue Department and vendors, the Equipment Management and Transportation Agency, Central Stores, and others.

**Recruitment Branch**

Schedules applicants for the written examination;

Grades examinations using automated scoring equipment;

Schedules and conducts physical ability testing for applicants;

Interviews applicants;

Attends job fairs and other recruitment fairs.

**In each functional area**

Attends training sessions, participates in drills, and participates in the physical fitness program;

Performs housekeeping tasks in fire stations and on the grounds of fire stations;

Utilizing computers and other related equipment, maintains records as necessary and completes incident reports.

**REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

Knowledge of the purpose and operating characteristics of various nozzles, hose connections, and master stream devices;  
Knowledge of the friction loss/carrying capacity characteristics of various fire hose sizes/types;  
Knowledge of the chemistry and physics of fire, fire hazards, fire causes, and fire suppression;  
Knowledge of fire behavior, especially involving the likelihood of extension;  
Basic knowledge of mechanics and hydraulics;  
Basic knowledge of the chemical and physical properties of fire, smoke and heat;  
Ability to understand and use a variety of modern firefighting and emergency medical techniques;  
Ability to understand and follow oral and written directions;  
Ability to apply judgment and deductive reasoning to information about fire situations, recognize the relevancy of each item of information, reach logical conclusions, and adopt an effective course of action using accepted techniques;  
Ability to define operational problems and devise appropriate solutions;  
Ability to remain composed in difficult or stressful situations requiring emergency action, and to make sound decisions promptly under emergency conditions;  
Ability to communicate clearly and accurately, both orally and in writing;  
Ability to organize ideas and present them effectively;  
Ability to read and understand job-related, written material;  
Ability to learn streets, hydrant locations, location of target hazards, geography, and similar information concerning the response area to which assigned;  
Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with personnel at the station, other firefighters, volunteers, and the public;  
Ability to utilize computers, the computer-aided dispatch system, and related equipment;  
Sufficient hand-eye coordination and dexterity to operate and regulate Fire Department pumps and perform physical firefighting tasks which involve tying knots, raising and climbing ladders, and connecting and disconnecting hose couplings and other hose appliances;  
Ability to drive pumping apparatus and perform firefighting tasks which involve pulling, lifting and carrying;  
Ability to do strenuous firefighting work for occasional extended periods of time, and to change from a state of rest to a state of strenuous activity in a short period of time.

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:**

Any combination of education, experience and training equivalent to:

High school graduation or possession of a G.E.D. issued by a state department of education.

**LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES REQUIRED:**

Possession of a valid Motor Vehicle Driver's License at the time of application, and at all times during employment in the uniformed service.

Following successful completion of Fire and Rescue recruit training:

Certification as a Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-A or EMT-B);

Certification as a Hazardous Materials First Responder in accordance with Fairfax County training standards;

Certification in the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC); AND

Certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic electronic defibrillation (AED).

**NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Must successfully complete a criminal background investigation, a polygraph examination, and a physical ability test prior to appointment;

Must be at least 19 years old at the time of application;

Applicants selected must be able to obtain a Class A medical rating in the assigned medical group prior to starting work;

Must be tobacco-free and nicotine-free at the time of appointment, and be willing to sign a

Conditions of Employment Agreement to not use tobacco or tobacco products on- or off-duty;

Must successfully complete Fire and Rescue recruit training.

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